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ORAL HISTORY

ELIZABETH DE LOSADA

California Historical Society
Women in California Collection

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Oral History of

Elizabeth De Losada

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Interview History

Oral History of DOROTHY ELIZABETH DE LOSADA

Born September 17, 1921

Now living at her home in San Francisco, California

Interview held on March 4, 1976

Interviewer, Lucy Kendall

for the CHS Library, Women in California Collection under auspices of Manuscript Department, Lynn Bonfield Donovan, Manuscript Librarian

Time of Interview: Approximately one and one half hours

The following is a transcription of a brief interview with Dorothy Elizabeth (Betty) De Losada, who has spent her life as a working woman, a mother (raising two children of her second husband), a political and union activist, and in the establishment of a career.

The most important part of the transcript is the narrator's awareness of women's role in the trade union movement of the 1930's and 1940's.

She was interviewed for the Women in California Collection as part of the series on trade union and left wing women of the 1920's and 1930's.

Conduct of the Interview

The interview was conducted after dinner in the home of the interviewer who had just started compiling oral histories. It was conducted almost as an exercise, With no research, no expertise, a faulty recorder, and no understanding of oral history techniques, the interview would have been a complete and utter disaster had it not been for the intelligence and perspicacity of the interviewee.

Editing

There has been little or no editing outside of minor corrections by the narrator, and small changes in sentence structure, omission of redundant phrases and elimination of crutch words occasionaally.

The Interviewee

Betty De Losada is much younger than most of the women being interviewed in this project. She is a vibrant, vivacious, attractive women with a good deal of enthusiasm and energy for anything she participate in. This is reflected now in her community activities and in her work as a member of the Landmarks Board. She knows San Francisco as only a native who is in love with her City. She has innumerable acquaintances and an astounding number of friends from every section and social strata of the City.

At present she is working as public information officer for the San Francisco Unified School District.

Among the many other questions unasked in this interview was that of religion. She was raised as a Catholic, but her mother did not believe in the church as a necessity. Thought it just took money. Betty lived in a Catholic community, took communion and participated in church life because all her friends did. She drifted away from the church during her high school days and never returned.

Narrative Account of the Interview

Betty comes of French parentage, was born and raised in the French community of San Francisco, attended Lowell High school and worked both as a waitress and in a foreign language theatre. She went to the University of California at Berkeley, using money she had won in an essay contest.

In college she became involved in left wing and school activities. It was here she met her husband to be. During her college years she worked, during the summer months, both as a textile worker and a warehouse worker.

After marriage, and became of the war, she dropped out of college, went to work in the shipyards. Then she worked as a civil service worker under the aegis of the Warehouse Union, Local 6, ILWU. She did some union organizing then.

Her husband went into the army and she followed him to Tennessee where they both became involved in the Highlander Folk School.

The interview continues with her return to San Francisco after the break up of her marriage; her re-admittance to the warehouse union and her consequent activities within the union as an official, a shop steward, a member of the strike committee, and so on.

She then briefly goes into her second marriage with a man she met in the course of her union work, and talks of her helping raise two of his children.

Sensing the possible difficulties of continuing work in the warehouse union, she decided to return to school to get her degrees. She did this while continuing to work and function both as a member of the union and as a mother and wife.

The interview concludes with some opinions and reflections on her activities and comments on her present interests.

The interviewer feels strongly that this interview does not do justice to De Losada's contribution to women's history. Perhaps it should be considered a series of short and inadequate narrations of sections of her life until all the errors of commission and omission can be rectified by a full and detailed taping, backed by adequate research. This will probably take about twenty hours of narration.

Lucy Kendall
Interviewer
February 11, 1978

MS 582

De Losada, Betty Baget, 1921

Papers, 1939-1964 1 box including 1 volume

Includes an essay on the labor movement written by her when she was a high school student, a term paper on a labor related theme for a Psychology course, ILWU printed material, and newspaper clippings. Also, two folders of correspondence, 1947-1950, from Ace De Losada's files as business agent for Local 6.

Gift of Betty De Losada, 1976

Material transferred to other departments:
Photographs
The ILWU Story: Three Decades of Militant Unionism, 1963
Local 6 in Action, 1946
Renaissance, Vol. 1, No. 4, 1962
"Because a Man Stood Up for Human Rights!", pamphlet on Harry Bridges case
Hedgpeth, Nellie McGraw, My Early Days in San Francisco, 1974

Added entries: De Losada, Horace (Ace)
Heide, Paul, tls, 1949
Robinson, Earl E., TLS, 1950
Wells, Wesley Robert, 1953-1955
Civil Rights
ILWU, Local 6
Marine Cafe
Prisons
Trade-Union
Women in California
Women in Trade-Unions
Blacks in California
1939-1964
Strikes and Lockouts

MS 582

DeLosada, Betty Baget, 1921

Folder	1	High School essay: "Organized Labor: America's Problem or Opportunity?", 1939
	2	Psychology Term Paper: "How the Typical Steward in Warehouse Union, Local 6, ILWU Conceptualizes the Self", 1956
	3	Material from candidacy for Democratic Party Central Committee, 1954
	4	page from Spirit, Hiram Walker House Organ, Vol. XIV, March, 1957, No. 10
	5	"Highlander Reports", a newspaper from the school where she taught in 1946
	6	ILWU, printed material, 1948-1964
	7	Memorandum and Questionnaire for the Fair Employment Practices Committee of the ILWU
	8	Agreement signed by owner of Marine Cafe, 1949
	9	Horace (Ace) De Losada, correspondence, 1947-1950
	10	Letters from Wesley Robert Wells to Ace De Losada, 1953-1955
	11	Newspaper clippings, 1931-1950
Volume	1	Strike Publicity, 1949

BETTY DE LOSADA (facing camera) followed by Ace DeLosada (her husband) on picket line at S & W (Sussman and Wormser) warehouse. 9/29/49 - Filed in photograph collection under S.F. General Subjects, Strikes. Negative 21458

BETTY DE LOSADA - Steward at Hiram Walkers. Early 1940's.

Filed in photograph collection under S.F. General Subjects, Strikes.

Negative 21457

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS IN PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

Filed under, San Francisco General, Strikes

Strike Publicity Committee	5/23/47	Neg. 21455
Women's Meeting of Local 6	August, 1947	Neg. 21454
Speaking at Union meeting		Neg. 21456
On Sears Roebuck Picket Line		Neg. 21460
Strike Committee meeting		Neg. 21461
At Microphone at union meeting		Neg. 21459

DOROTHY ELIZABETH DE LOSADA

Transcript: March 4, 1976

Ken: The first thing we would like to know is who were your parents - what was their ethnic background?

DeL: First, may I say that everybody knows me as Betty.

My parents were both born in France, in the Pyrenees. They came to San Francisco, California, in 1904, and they met on the boat coming over. Actually, their two villages were not very many kilometers apart. But they probably would never have met since there wasn't any motorized transportation between the two villages.

My mother lived in what was called the High [Hautes] Pyrenees. My father in the Bases Pyrenees. The only transportation was feet and mules.

A cousin of their had come to San Francisco in the 1850's and had established a business in laundries. She and her husband kept coming back to the Pyrenees and recruiting young people to come to work. Their passage was paid by the cousin. It was understood, I think (I don't think it was written down) that they would stay for one year in the laundry without wages. They would get board and room, and that would pay the cost of the passage. They both went to work in the laundry. After they served out their contract they were married in February of 1906 and, I guess, honeymooned in Golden Gate Park because of the earthquake. Shortly after they opened their own laundry.

Ken: How long after were you born?

DeL; I was born in 1921 - September 17th. My mother told me many, many years later, that she had had six or eight abortions, miscarriages; that it was not possible economically to have children because of their business in the laundry. I was born really quite late in their lives. She was thirty eight. I don't know that I mentioned my mother was 17 when she came to California, and my father was 20.

Ken: Were you an only child?

DeL: No. I have a brother who is seven years older than myself.

Ken: Do you remember anything particularly of your pre-school childhood?

DeL: First of all, we spoke only French at home. And I learned English, I think, playing with the children. I played in the back of the laundry with my cousins. My mother's brother owned a laundry, and my uncle and my aunt spoke French.

I played with my cousins on the big piles of dirty clothes. I can still smell the ink that is used to mark the laundry.

The meals were at noontime where everything stopped from 12 to 2, and everyone came and ate around the big table.

The laundry was at 18th and Castro Streets. The cable car ran on Castro Street. It went from 18th up the hill, and down to 24th Street. Then we moved to Glen Park, part of the Diamond Heights area, which is sort of separate.

I remember them telling me they used to hire a horse and buggy to go out on Sunday. They fell in love with that rustic area there. There was sort of a box canyon in Glen Park.

We had a little house on Laidley Street. I remember the big cobblestones - all the vendors - the horses, and all the newsboys that used to come around with the extras, knowing everybody - going to the Crystal Palace Market.

Ken: Did you live above the laundry in the first place, and live away from the laundry in the second place?

DeL: No. My mother worked at the laundry and took me there every day. Then I played there. But we actually lived on Laidley Street. When I was about two or three, we moved to Laidley Street. Moved there in 1923 or 1924.

Ken: Where did you have your first schooling?

DeL: Glen Park - the kindergarten. I went there until the 8th grade. Then I went to Girl's High School for one year, but was not happy with the life there. And I went to Lowell which was co-educational. I graduated from Lowell in 1939.

Ken: Let me go back to your parents. What kind of a home life did you have? What was your relationship with your brother?

DeL: First of all, my father died of a heart attack when I was about five. So my brother, who was seven years older than I, became almost a father figure. He was twelve, and my mother relied heavily upon him.

He had gone to parochial school earlier, but when my father died there was not enough money for that. So he had to go to public school.

When I was about seven, I guess, my mother re-married. She married a man who was a widower, and who lived about two blocks away. And he had a son who was about a year older than I. And we all went to live in their house.

He [the mother's second husband] was of German background, and was a cabinetmaker. He was a good craftsman - made beautiful cedar chests and beautiful inlaid work. I still have articles that he made.

My stepbrother and I were very close. We were a very good family unit until the depression. Then my stepfather lost his job. He worked at a mill company called Fink and Shindler. I think it's still in business. He began to drink wine. We always made our own wine and beer. I think he spent more time in the basement drinking. No money, no work, and no food - you know, very difficult.

So my mother and he separated. And we went back to live in the little house that had been my father's and hers. All of us kids remained friends. They finally remained friends too. But they finally did get a divorce.

Ken: Did she maintain the laundry?

DeL: She worked at my uncle's laundry.

Ken: What about the laundry she and your father had?

DeL: I don't know exactly. I think they must have had some financial problems. I wasn't aware of them. All I remember was that she worked at my uncle's laundry.

Ken: And she continued to work there during her marriage?

DeL; During her marriage to my stepfather, she did not work. And then, when they separated, she went back to work at the laundry.

Ken: Then you were never very affluent during your childhood?

DeL; My childhood memories of people working - work on Saturdays. Sunday was the only day off. And then hearing my stepfather talk about work, and unions, and strikes. And I did hear about the strike of 1921, which was the building trades strike. He talked about that.

Ken: Were your parents political at all - your stepfather or your mother? What was your political background?

DeL; Well, the only thing I can remember about my mother would be her talking about politics in France with my father.

He had another motivation for coming to the United States. He did not want to be drafted, or serve in military service.

I don't remember that they(my mother and stepfather) were very political. But my brother was a very earnest student of political science. How he became - I think partly through a man who lived next door to us. He was crippled, and he did a lot of reading. A Scotsman - Geddes was his name. And he received the Congressional Record daily. And he and my brother used to talk about it. My brother wanted to be a lawyer. He was already sixteen or seventeen, and he was very into studying politics. I can remember the Upton Sinclair campaign vividly, wearing a campaign button to school.

Ken: How old were you then?

DeL: I was in the eighth grade, an I had this button, "End Poverty in California". And I knew about the EPIC plan. My teacher, a very ardent republican, asked me to remove the button. And she asked me in front of the class. I remember standigg up, and because we were very respectful, saying that I couldnot remove the button; that I believed in Upton Sinclair and what he stood for. She sent me to the principal's office. The principal, Laura D.Pierson, looked at me through her pince nez glasses and asked me to remove the button. And I said, "No." I could not; that I was thoroughly familiar with Upton Insclair and his opponent, and I was understanding of all his political platform. So, after they talked to me and understood that I knew something about the platform and it was not just a button I picked up, and that my brother was involved, then they did not censor me or take the button away. I continued to wear it.

I was very cognizant of the election machinery, the rhetoric, the cartoons, and the vilification of Upton Sinclair. I campaigned that year in the Governor's race. My ambition, then, was to be a Congresswoman.

Ken: So your brother actually did influence you a lot?

DeL: Yes, it was he, and not my parents. We were very interested in everything that happened. We walked to the Civic Auditorium during the general strike to hear Harry Bridges and Roger Lapham debate.

Ken: How old were you then?

DeL; I was in the Glen Park school in 1934, and I graduated in 1935. None of the street cars were running. So we walked from Glen Park to the Civic Auditorium. I remember the grocery stores were closed, and you couldn't get bread or milk. Those were the only daily things that I missed. How he [my brother] knew there was a meeting, I don't know. I can't remember that now.But I know that we went. I can see Harry's face - the leaness, the gauntness. I had a program of that evening which I have since given to the ILWU library, because that was one of the programs that Harry did not have in the collection.

Ken: Did you notice anything else during the strike? Did it affect your life in any other way than your interest?

DeL: Well, in Glen Park and the Mission district there were longshoremen living in the area. We knew people whose parents were on strike. It was a neighborhood of working class people. So you were affected by your friends. We knew that people were suffering.

Ken: It never affected you directly? You didn't see anything, or get involved in any way?

DeL: No.

Ken: Let us continue with your high school life. What did you do in high school? Were you interested in social life? Did you start going out with guys then? Were you interested in the politics of high school?

DeL: Actually I ran for office in grammar school,elementary school. I ran for president of the student body. I think I was the first girl to run, but I amnot sure. I didn't win, but it was a credibale election result. I was very bookish, and started wearing glasses at an early age.

I felt I was very unattractive. On the other hand, I was interested in boys.

Why I went to Girls High school was a sort of follow-the-leader as several of my friends went. I had a reputation of a very fine academic background. There I met Pauline Kael, the movie critic of the New Yorker. She was on the debating team. And I joined the debating team.

Then I went to Lowell High School. And, suddenly at Lowell, I became very conscious of social class. I realized that I was very poor. I hadn't known that before. I experienced it at Lowell because at Lowell there were people who were extremely wealthy. The young Sutro boy had a Cord automobile. I remember the Cord machine would drive up in front of Lowell, and he would pile all of his friends in the car, and go to a game. I remember limousines with chauffers picking up students, and the cashmere-sweater-and-pearls students.

DeL: You know, the first time I ever met anyone Jewish; and I met my first black student, a friend of mine, Helene Powell. We still are friends today. Lowell opened up a great deal to me in terms of preparing me to go to college. But it was a very sad time. I could not mingle socially with people. I remember for two years I had two skirts, one was navy and the other was brown. And I had a jacket that was checkered, so that it would mix-match with these two skirts. I really had very few clothes because my was supporting my brother and myself. And my brother was trying to get through law school. And I was very conscious of being poor.

Ken: Did you belong to any clubs at school?

DeL: Oh yes - the debating society, and drama. But really, in my senior year, I got very involved in folk dancing. The leader of the group that I danced with was Chang, a Chinese man here in San Francisco, an artist who organized folk dancing groups. And we danced at the fair on Treasure Island in 1939. I met a lot of artists and people who were in the left movement. My brother had begun to meet people in different trade unions and in the left wing. He got involved, since he did some clerical and office work, with the Office Workers Union. So, I began to meet friends of his. I really had more activities outside the school because I couldn't compete socially in any way with the people there.

Ken: What kind of activities did you have outside the school?

DeL: I studied very hard, and I had all A's. I was encouraged to go to college. In my junior and senior year I went to work. I worked in the Vogue Theatre here. They became and international film house and wanted somebody to be the usherette. So I worked nights at the Vogue theatre and I also waited on table at the YWCA [Young Women's Christian Association] resident club on Powell Street. So I had a very heavy schedule of working outside of school.

Ken: So you didn't actually join any organization?

DeL: No. I didn't have time. We didn't have automobiles, so I took three street cars to Lowell. And, when I worked, I went from school to the theatre. Then I got off work at 9 o'clock and by the time I got home it was 10:30 or 11:30 sometimes.

Ken: And when did you graduate from high school?

DeL: 1939.

Ken: Did you still want to be a congressperson?

DeL: Yes. And actually the one way that I was able to go to college, to the University of California, was through the labor movement, interestingly enough.

My mother had no money, really. And my English teacher encouraged me to enter an essay contest. The title of the contest, the subject, was "Organized Labor, America's Problem or Opportunity." And I had read in the newspaper a speech of Jack Shelley's, who was then the secretary-treasurer of the Labor Council. He had said something about organized labor being the bulwark against fascism. That is a cliche today. But at that time it was a very important phrase for me because we were conscious of fascism in Italy and Nazism in Germany. At that time I was very conscious because of my background in political science and my European background. So I wrote the essay and won $25.00. It doesn't seem like a lot today, but that was an enormous sum to me.

My English teacher, Howard Edminster, a very fine man (very active in the Teachers Union I found out later - I didn't know it then) encouraged me to apply at the University of California. In those days we called it the incidental fees (they never called it tuition) - tuition was free at the University - was $27.50. So, in essence, I had my tuition with this contest money. Then, with my work, I was able to persuade my mother that it was important for me to go to the University, and that I would be able to support myself in terms of clothes and things I needed for school if I could have my board and room.

So I took the train every day across the bridge to Berkeley. I went to school, came back, went to work at the YWCA Resident Club, served dinner, ate, then went to the theatre. That lasted for about a year. Actually the hours were too long. I couldn't study.

I persuaded my mother to let me move to Berkeley. I shared an apartment and worked as a waitress in restaurants in Berkeley. Then I worked also, as a lot of students did, as au pair with a doctor and his wife, and got board and room for doing housework. Then I also was fortunate. I became a youth worker in the NYA Program, that was the National Youth Administration. I received $18.00 a month.

Ken: What were your politics in school, if any?

DeL: I was recruited into the Young Communist League. I didn't stay in very long, and I don't even know if I paid dues. It was a very informal structure. We met in automobiles and drove around, thinking the FBI was after us, or something. But we read a lot of tracts and literature. It was also the time, I think, when we were very conscious of the war and what was happening in Europe; and the invasion of countries by the Nazis.

Of course the war in Spain, I think, had a most profound effect on me emotionally. I think this is why I became more politicized. The weapons, the aerial bombimgs, and what was happening to the Loyalist government through the intervention of Italy and Germany at that time. I was more left in my politics than I might have been in terms of the national scene. I think those things affected me more acutely than what was happening in the U.S.

Ken: What were your activities in college outside of studying and working?

DeL: Since I worked in a restaurant I was very conscious of the movement to raise the wages of restaurant workers. We had was was called the "Fair Bear". We were trying to get 40¢ and hour for Fair Bear wages for all the student workers. I belonged to that group, and was very active in that.

In the summertime I was very fortunate, in 1940 and 1941, to work in industry. I went to work one summer in the textile industry, Ames Harris Neville, in San Francisco, which was the textile plant that received jute from India and made gunnysacks. Then I went to work in the warehouse industry the next summer, and worked in Independent Paper, which was a warehouse that received from the scavengers papers. We sorted out on beltlines different kinds of paper and rags for recycling paper. I was near or around both the Textile Workers Union and the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union. We couldn't join as members. We had permits to work in the summer.

Ken: Let's get back to the Fair Bear. What did you do to get the 40¢ an hour, and did you succeed?

DeL: Not the first semester. We organized demonstrations at Sather Gate. We had meetings of all kinds. We had leaflet distribution. We never had a strike that I can remember. But we leafleted, and we tried to get these restaurant owners that paid Fair Bear wages to display the sticker. It was sort of like displaying the union label; and to get people to patronize those restaurants that were Fair Bear; and to respect the people who paid students a fair wage. We tried to get other students involved not to take wages in less money, to withhold their services. Eventually, because war industries came, restaurants were able to get sort of organized, but it wasn't easy.

Ken: Was there a union involved in this at all?

DeL; Not in the sense of the Hotel and Restaurant Workers. No. The students were not involved in that. We had our own student workers union.

Ken: Were you an official in it?

DeL; No, just an organizer. My first husband, Tom Ludwig, was involved in it. He worked nights. I met him through the movement. He worked midnight to 7 at a machinist in a plant.

Ken: Did anything untoward happen. Did the restaurant owners fight back in any way?

DeL: Nothing dramatic. I don't recall any instances that would be equal to the recent student movement, the free speech movement. We never had trashing. We didn't have the kind of demonstrations that people think about now. If you had one microphone at Sather Gate, and you had a couple of hundred people listening to you, you were very lucky. We never had a student movement in Berkeley comparable to what came later.

Remember, the fraternities and sororities dominated the campus. My husband was the first non-fraternity man to run for president of the student body. He almost was elected, but not quite. And we really were a minority. Most students did not work at college. They were supported by parents who were affluent. There were students who worked, but they weren't the majority.

Ken: When did you get married?

DeL: I was married in 1942.

Ken: After you graduated from school?

DeL: No, I didn't graduate. I was in the class of '43, and I didn't graduate. I dropped out.

Ken: Why?

DeL: Because December 7th was a pretty important date. My husband would have been drafted. We married in 1942, and I went to work in the Richmond shipyards. That was a temporary job.

Then my husband was sent away to camp, and to different installations. I moved back to San Francisco, and a friend and I went back to the Warehouse Union. We went to work in an Army Medical Depot, the old Woolworth warehouse on Folsom Street in San Francisco. We were civil service workers, but we were organizing for Local 6. And we all joined Local 6, and we really organized many of the workers.

Ken: How did you become an organized for the union?

DeL: We had contacts with the union during the summer when we had worked at students earlier. And we had met people, officials, and we were young. And I think Joe Lynch, who as a business agent at the time, asked us if we would organize the workers in the depots. We agrees, and spent a lot of time doing that; and had our own Civil Service Unit in the Warehouse Union. Another attraction, of course, was that you would be able to get books in the union. That meant instant membership. Other people had to work three months or six months to get a red book; and they had to work a year to get a black book and membership. In the organizing drive, we were able to get books immediately, which was quite an incentive to join the union. That meant that when the war was over we could work in any warehouse in the industry.

Ken: How did you go about organizing?

DeL: Well, we met with the officials and had a sense of what the union provided in conditions and wages and contracts - grievance procedures, and benefits. We talked to people, leafleted, held meetings after work - sometimes in the bar across the street. That's how I first learned about organizing, Then, at the union hall at 519 Mission Street, we got small groups together and signed them up. And we just kept at it, getting one person, two people, just building on our contacts.

Ken: Did they sign cards, or what?

DeL: Yes, they signed up cards, and they were given books. And they were entitled to attend membership meetings.

Ken: Did you participate in the membership meetings at all?

DeL: Yes.

Ken: I an presuming you organized everybody.

DeL: Well, we never had 100% membership in the civil service workers. For one thing, they were people from all over the United States. They were unfamiliar with unions, and had no sense of background as unions go. Many people thought it was a temporary thing - that they were just going to be here for the war effort, then leave; and what was the point of joining a union. And there were many obstacles in building a base, in workers understanding about a union in wartime industry, which was only geared to war. So our activity with them was temporary, here and now, and trying to show what their benefits would be after the war, if they intended to remain here. But many people came just for the war effort, and didn't see themselves as workers in the warehouse industry. The other problem was shift workers.

Ken: What about the union then. Did you go to union meetings and participate in union life?

DeL: At the time the warehouse union had separate meetings for women, and they also had a separate hiring hall. We had strong feelings about that. I did not feel comfortable having separate meetings and being apart from the general discussion, voting separately on a course of action that would affect everybody.

Ken: You mean you were second class citizens?

DeL; They had separate meetings.

Ken: Did they vote on policy?

DeL: Yes. But I suppose it was a sort of ratification process, as the main issues were settled at the men's meetings. But that disappeared during the war time effort.

Ken: How did it disappear? Did you have a part in it?

DeL: I don't know. I am sure it was because of the whole changing role of women during the war. And I am sure there were union leaders who had strong feelings about it and recognition of the role that could be played by women. And it was not an appropriate mechanism during World War II. It simply did not hold up to the kind of unity that was needed, and it disappeared.

Ken: What role did you play in the union? In the women's meetings first, and then as a member of the joint group?

DeL: I don't know that I played an outstanding role then. I was real young, and the group that I was associated with was civil service workers; and they were, in terms of status and permanence, a rather unknown factor. So my original work in the warehouse union was rather peripheral. There were other women who had a real base in recognized warehouses, and they were much more active and effective. Later, I was. But not then.

Ken: How much later? What happened? Let us skip some time.

DeL: I just should state that in 1945 I spent one year in Tennessee at the Highlander Folk School. My husband, Tom, was stationed in Georgia. And we met Myles Horton, who wqs one of the leaders of the social revolution of our time. He worked with Martin Luther King, passive resistance, the civil rights movement, and so on. He founded the folk school. I met many people from the CIO there - steel workers, agricultural workers, furniture workers. Many of the unions came to the school for union conferences because it was the only place in the South that had interracial facilities. At any rate I came in contact with a lot of union people.

Ken: Did you go to school there?

DeL: I was on the staff. It was a workers education center.

Ken: Who started it. Tell me a little bit about it.

DeL: Well, Myles Horton was a man who had grown up in Tennessee. He had gone to a Theological Seminary, and he had become very taken with the cooperative movement. He had come back to Tennessee and attempted to have workers in this very poor area learn to make crafts and folk objects - art, literature, whatever, in this poverty stricken land. And he opened this Highlander Folk school patterned after Workers Education Schools in Scandinavia. He had some kind of funds from church groups originally. Then he became more convinced, with the advent of the CIO, that workers needed to be in unions. And he then changed, and he opened the Highlander Folk School to be a training ground for union organizers, and for the training of secondary leadership, stewards - and to do all kinds of workers education.

He and his wife Zilphia were on the first picket lines of the Furniture Workers and the Textile Workers. It was there that the song, "We Shall Overcome" had its genesis because Zilphia collected music and wrote new words,often for organizing purposes.

And Pete Seeger came to Highlander. And the original song, which had been sung in black churches all over the South was we "will" overcome. But many of the songs that were heard on picket lines were developed at Highlander.

I taught classes in public speaking and grievance procedure, and we were teaching people to be more effective, and to be leaders in their own locals.

Ken: How did you get that job?

DeL: Well, my husband met Myles Horton and Myles invited us to come there, and we didn't get any salary. Except that we worked for the unions. The unions paid us to teach a course. We spent a year there. Then my husband and I decided to divorce for many personal and cultural reasons. He became an organizer for the National Farmers Union and went on to organize in the deep south.

I came back to San Francisco. And I had my good old black book in Local 6, Warehouse Union, and I went down to the union hiring hall. I got sentto work for Hiram Walkers, a distillery, and I stayed there for ten years.

Ken: When did you start becoming active in the union again?

DeL: That is when I really became active in the union. That was in 1945.

Ken: That was after the end of the war?

DeL: Yes. And there was a whole different feeling about the participation of women and minorities. The women's meetings were gone. The only vestige of segregation was the women's hiring hall. At that time there was a differential of 17½¢ per hour. The women received less than the men, and there were !women's jobs" and "men's jobs". Women were not sent into the shipping department or to the bull bang, and men were not sent to the assembly lines to do the piece work, or to the belt lines.

Ken: What kind of a life did you have as a member of the union? Did you live alone? Did you just work and go home? What was your outside life like?

DeL; I was like everyone else. I went back to mama. I went back to live with my mother on Laidley Street. She was still working in my uncle's laundry. I went back home, and I took up my life. My social life was principally around the warehouse union and friends at Hiram Walker, and in the union, that a met - and a few friends from school. Helene Powell was also in the warehouse union.

And I became the shop steward about three months after I went to Hiram Walker. And I think it's important to record the first grievance that I won because it had to do with securing maternity leave. In those days there were about sixty women working on the assembly line. And, when a woman was pregnant, she was fired - terminated, even though she might have been an excellent and outstanding employee. There was no provision written in the contract. We were working under the master contract in Local 6, but there was no provision for maternity leave.

When I became the shop steward, one of my friends, a Latino woman, was obviously trying to hide her pregnancy, and I was not really conscious of the reason.Then she explained that she would be terminated. So I went to the company with a grievance committee

DeL: and suggested maternity leave. And I can still remember the general manager of the plant whose name was Mr. Wilsczski. He was horrified, and his words to me were, "Why do you want to give leave? We didn't get her that way," as if we were asking for a favor or a boon, instead of seeing the pregnancy as a temporary disability and a natural one. And my answer to him was that the Supreme Court had ruled in the Helen Hayes case, where she had brought suit against Warner Brothers, where she had been fired because she had become pregnant, that pregnancy was an act of god; and that she couldn't be terminated from her contract. She had gone to the Supreme Court, and she had won. So I told him that if the Supreme Court had ruled for Helen Hayes it was going to rule for us, and that he could not terminate Luisa Valle because she was pregnant; that this was an act of god; and that neither Hiram Walker nor the Warehouse Union had gotten her that way. So Mr. Wilscezki, who was a very good Catholic, was stunned. However he sought refuge, as all scoundrels do, in the fact that there were other circumstances. He brought in an insurance company who stated that if the woman were to slip and fall that the insurance company would be liable, and that there were all kinds of problems.

So I went to the union, and I sought the assistance of a business agent. Fortunately for me the business agent who was assigned to our warehouse was absent, and the business agent who took the grievance was Ace DeLosada. We became friends, and I later married him. And he came to the grievance committee. He didn't get a chance to say anything, but he was an official of the union. We insisted that we would force the union to take Hiram Walker to court to win our case. So we really negotiated the first maternity leave that I know of in Local 6. There may have been other informal arrangements, but we did get the maternity leave provision. And from then on there was not one woman terminated because she was pregnant. And, after three months, she was able to return to work with a doctor's certificate and renew her employment and maintain her seniority.That was really important.

DeL: So, from then on, I really became active in the union, the publicity committee - And then I ran for the Board of Trustees and won, and served on that for many years. I was, I think, the first woman chairman of a negotiating committee. That was in 1948.

Ken: What strike was that?

DeL: 1948- the entire master contract.

Ken: Why did they go on strike?

DeL: Principally for wages. We were bargaining with the Distributors Association of Northern California, and Eugene Paton was the president of the union then. Fortunately it was only three days. In 1949 it was three months.

Ken: You didn't get much of a chance to be chairman then?

DeL: Well, the strike was successful. Contrary to what most people think, the successful strike is a short one. The longer a strike goes [tape garbled here] - it is devastating to be out on a long strike.

Ken: Can you tell me how a strike is structured, from the point of view of a chairman of a strike committee?

DeL: I think Warehouse Union, Local 6, would have a very different structure. I wouldn't want to contend that this structure that I would describe would be exemplified in other unions. I think Local 6 was much more open and much more oriented to rank and file participation than other unions I have known about.

We first had a convention that voted a proposed demand package, so that people hammered out a lot of differences before they went to an employer about the kinds of demands for wages and hours and working conditions. There was a great deal of unity before you went to an employer. Then usually Local 6 had a strategy committee and a negotiating committee that attempted to negotiate with the employers.

Ken: Were they elected from the floor, or were they appointed?

DeL: They were always elected, usually from the Steward's Council, and were ratified from the larger membership meeting.

In those days we met in the Civic Auditorium. There were 5000 or 6000 people in attendance at monthly meetings, and 200 or 300 people at a stewards meeting. So actually, as I think backwards, I was chairman of the negotiating committee, and the strike committee was a joint committee.

But the negotiating committee met with the officers and took the demands that the membership had agreed to, and negotiated with the employers.

I can remember, and I have to tell an anecdote about one of the first negotiating sessions because I think it typifies some of the thinking and ways people behave in sessions. We had a very capable research staff in the ILWU, and they compiled a great deal of economic information on the industry and the profits of the individual companies who belonged to the Distributors Association - the cost of living, burdens on industrial workers - a battery of research and data that had been presented for days by the union. And the employers were to respond. Then, when it was their day to respond, there was a rather embarrassed silence. They certainly weren't going to dispute any of the profits that had been presented by the union. One employer, Mr. Anderson of Anderson Smith Rice Mill (an elderly man - speaking out of turn because usually the employers' negotiation man, J. Hart Clinton, did all the speaking and individual employers said nothing) - but Mr. Anderson sputtered that all this time was wasted, that all this discussion about economics

[as the tape was faulty, voices faded out toward the end, so the continuation of this answer is from the interviewer's memory] -

He continued to comment that such extra expenses as "entertainment and prostitutes" were not included in the expenses of the employers.

Since Betty was the only woman present, everyone got very upset, and there was a good deal of moving of chairs.

Betty was unhappy because her answer was lost in the fluster. It was -

"Mr. Anderson, we are not interested in the wages of Win. We are interested in the wages of the warehouse workers."

Second side of tape

Ken: We were on negotiations, weren't we?

DeL: We do really make an effort, a real effort, to negotiate a peaceful settlement, and to have an agreement reachedof a contract that people can live with on both sides. If there is an impasse - In Local 6, at that time, there was a great deal of effort to have meetings and to try to truly negotiate and to scale down demands if one had to, and to come in with counter-proposals. But at some point,if there were an impossibility of reaching agreement, the membership would be assembled, and the negotiating committee with the officers would make a recommendation to either reject the offer [of the employers] completely, or to call a strike if they really had not been able to reach an agreement. The hours, the exhausting negotiating sessions, always preceeded that point.

And the strike machinery of the three strikes I was in was really a kind of welding together of a lot of rank and file people. There was always a publicity committee to give daily reports of what was happening. There was a strategy committee to take up issues such as - do we permit pharmaceuticals of an emergency nature to be processed through a drug warehouse, or do we permit perishables, groceries, to be moved. You know, real strategy items.

DeL: We tried to negotiate with the independent contract houses. We tried to force them into the master agreement with the Distributors. In other words, strategy on how to win the strike more quickly and effectively.

We had usually a strike committee that set up picket lines.

In Local 6 no one was ever paid. There was no large treasury as in some other unions where people had a certain stipend from the union treasury and people were paid to picket. In Local 6, where the initiation fees and dues were very small, there was nothing from the treasury. So, when there was a strike, everybody was out, including the labor union officials who were off the payroll.

Some houses required larger picket lines. Some required picket lines around the clock. Sometimes picket lines were needed at spur tracks or teamster hauls, or wherever trucks were moving supplies, or outlets - so the strike committee set up conditions for the picket lines, and so on.

And there was a committee that solicited support from other unions, from community organizations. And in the strike of 1949 that went on for three months there was a relief committee and welfare committee that set up distribution of food and supplies, a kitchen. And they attempted to negotiate with loan companies and banks and others to give welfare and help people.

Generally the negotiating committee and strategy committee augmented the dealings. Oftentimes there was a small committee elected to work with the officials. Sometimes off-the-record meetings were held with the employers to try to find some agreement, to explore avenues of settlement on certain items.

And I think the rank and file participated to a huge extent in Local 6 as compared to many small craft unions where, I understand, people were not involved in a mass way.

I think it is important for those people who are interested in history to realize that there was a period of repression in the country at the time when the McCarthy period

DeL: was prevalent; and the Teamsters Union, Local 12, raided the Warehouse Union, Local 6. That meant that they attempted to sign agreements with some of the companies and to get people to join their union on the basis that Local 6 and the ILWU were communist led. Of course this was also the time when the ILWU left the CIO. So you had a whole period of attack on the ILWU, which was an independent union, by other unions, and by government agencies, and by community and political groups. So the conduct of the strike in 1949 was enormously difficult. And probably the length of the strike was affected by the raiding of Local 12, which was a local set up just to raid the warehouse industry.

Ken: Was this with the approval of the employers?

DeL: Well, I assume so. But it wasn't open. I think many people suspected a sort of sweetheart deal in arrangements, but I don't think I have any proof of that.

Ken: I was just wondering. Because obviously they would be the ones to benefit by a situation of this nature.

DeL: They did. But I am sure there was collusion. But that is my subjective reasoning. At any rate, I think it is important to record that, because the strike was not in isolation, and it was not a strike that was solely on economic issues as in previous years. The ILWU has been more plagued by extraneous issues brought in by employers or groups used by the employers to divide working people. And certainly the red herring and the persecution of people of left wing philosophy and political persuasion was much more evident. In that strike people were fighting on many fronts.

Ken: Let's go back. You brought in left-wing persuasions. Were you still a member of the Young Communist League?

DeL: Oh, no. That had gone by the board after my early college days, and I was not. I was a Democrat, left in my thinking, but not a YCLer.

Eventually the ILWU decided to comply with the Taft Hartley Act, although it had resisted for a great deal of time. And the Taft Hartley required that officials sign that they were not in order to use the facilities and the election machinery set up under the Taft Hartley Act. So the ILWU

DeL: officials, and that included trustees such as myself (we were considered officials) signed affidavits that we were not communists.

Ken: Let's go back. When you went to work in 1946, you mentioned Ace DeLosada and that you finally married him. When did this happen?

DeL: We married in 1950. He was a business agent when I met him. But in the 1949 strike he was one of the officials that was most singled out by the Teamsters. And the person that was most in favor of the Teamsters Union was a sort of double agent at the time, Dominic Gallo, ran for office against Ace and defeated him for business agent. So Ace returned to his employment in the warehouse industry. Union officials retained seniority in the warehouse they had come from. It was the Coffin-Redington drug warehouse.

Ace had been married previously. Two of the children lived with us and two with their mother and other relatives and visited us on week ends.

And we went to live with my mother. She had a little larger house. It was divided into two flats. We lived upstairs and she lived downstairs. And I continued to work at Hiram Walker while the children were at school.

Ken: How old were they?

DeL: Well, at first the two boys who were twelve and eleven lived with us. And then, for a number of reasons, the boys went to live with their mother. The two girls, who were six and eight, came to live with us. I had a lot of work at home and a lot of work in the union.

Ken: Who took care of them while you were working?

DeL: They went to school, and my mother took care of them after school.

Ken: Was your motherworking then?

DeL: No. She was not working. So she watched them after school. I got off work at 4:30, and the girls got off school at 3:10. So there was not that much of a difference. And often times they came to the union meetings.

And I think it is an interesting thing that I and many women that worked in warehouses are conscious of being replaced by machines. Although I was very happy in my married life, and with the children, and with my work, it was very obvious that the company [Hiram Walker] was more and more coming to mechanize because ours was a hand operation. It appeared when a person came in and watched the moving bottles and the pace they moved at. It seemed very mechanical, but actually we were pasting labels by hand on those bottles. And it wasn't long before machines came with labels. And other parts of the process were being more mechanized. It was quite clear that there would be less employment with the machines, or the employment that would be there would be of a different nature, more skilled. And I began to feel that I should begin to prepare for another career in order to survive. I knew I had to work, and the employment for women in the warehouse industry was precarious. Also the liquor industry was very seasonal. We were often laid off for months after January, after the Christmas holiday season. And unemployment insurance was not that much.

So it was important to have some sense of another career. I began to think of finishing my college and getting a Bachelor's degree. At first I took correspondence courses, and then went to school, U.C. Extension. Then, one summer when I was laid off, I began to get my units together, and finally got my Bachelor's degree.

Ken: Wasn't it difficult working, taking care of two children, and going to school?

DeL; Yes. We didn't even have a washing machine, a dishwasher, or mechanical aids. We didn't even have a furnace in the house. There was a lot of physical labor. There was a great deal of physical energy ndded just for survival activities.

Ken: Let me ask one question. Can I ask a personal question. Why didn't you have children with your first husband, or with Act?

DeL: Well, I think, with my first husband - the first year or so because of the war and the uncertainty. But later I did not use birth control methods, and I just did not get pregnant. I don't know why. When I was married to Ace, we had economic problems, certainly, with four children to support. And then we decided to have children, and I became pregnant once. I had a tubular pregnancy and almost died. There was internal bleeding, and a rush to the hospital. So had one tube tied. But was never pregnant again.

Ken: Back to union activities. Did you continue to be active in the union when you went to school, or did you have to lay fallow?

DeL: I was a trustee until the day I turned in my application for withdrawal. A member of the Trustees is automatically a member of the executive board, and I was always active. I never gave up local activities. I felt they enhanced my studies. Certainly, when I went back to college, I was a better student on account of the life experiences that I had.

And I originally wanted to be prepared to be a social worker, or welfare worker, and to work in avenues of union welfare because we were just beginning to negotiate medical plans, and to negotiate pension plans. And I thought there was really an opportunity for social work as I saw it - for social work in a union - to be concerned with workers and their needs and their families; to see the whole person.

I had seen, during the 1949 strike, the impact on the family, and the kind of necessity to keep the wife, the husband, and the children together during times of economic crisis - how personal and family problems can affect the militancy of the worker, his attitude towards the union and the strike. And I really was very interested in preparing myself for a career

DeL: in union welfare. I found that if I took a course in statistics and research I found myself doing research on stewards in the union or studies about the kind of leadership attributes that shop stewards have that were different from a rank and file member. Or a labor economics course, or whatever, I could relate to my work and to my interests. I never found them conflicting or competitive. I always found them very compatible.

Ken: You said the union had some activity in relation to civil rights. Were you involved in that?

DeL: Yes. ILWU, I think, can justly take credit for many, many things - not the least of which was the breaking down of many racial barriers for employment within the warehouse industry; and in what was really a blue collar industry. But it something of a shock to people to think that we did not have blacks employed in the warehouse industry because employers really states that we couldn't share toilets and washrooms with black people.

Ken: Even during the war?

DeL: Yes. One of the first grievances that Ace won at Coffin-Redington before the war was to hire the first black in the union. And I know that at Hiram Walkers blacks were just beginning to come into that warehouse during World War II. There was just a few. And the kind of discrimination against them by the employers, and some workers, was very evident. So the union leadership position was full equality, and no discrimination in employment hiring and in job advancement. And that really spread out into the community.

Local 6 took a very active role in the civil rights movement in the City. And the municipal railway was hiring. And I remember picketing the Muni railway to get them to hire motormen and conductors. And Yellow Cab, we picketed Yellow Cab in an effort to get them to hire black drivers.

Ken: Did you take part in this just as a rank and filer?

DeL: Well, I think the leaders took certain articulate civil rights positions. And there were certain individual instances when Ace and I maybe picketed certain bars on our own, or

DeL: got up activities on our jobs - for the first black foreman. But I think the union leadership really took the lead in the civil rights movement. I was part of it. I wasn't an outstanding member. But I do remember being i volved as long as I was a member of Local 6, in civil rights for employment opportunities, and in housing, of course for blacks and minorities.

Ken: Can you think of anything you would like to say further about your activities in the Union?

DeL: I think a note should be recorded somewhere that even under the most fraternal and most beniegn circumstances (which I think Local 6 had) encouraging women to participate and to be in leadership, there was an ill-at-ease, awkward feeling initially. And there was a certain petting you on the head as if you were a little girl, and bringing you in to be a "showcase woman". Or a certain expectation of seduction in your manner. I mean you were supposed to be the woman and articulate the "woman's" viewpoint. You were encouraged to speak. And often there waa a kind of gallantry where, if ten people were lined up at the microphone and a woman such as myself got up to speak, the president generally said, "Well, let's allow sister Betty to get up first" - you know in front of everyone else because it was a kind of tokenism - that here was a woman speaking. And I was conscious of that.

At first there was encouragement, but it was kind of a doll-like quality to the interaction. Then, if you were to take a position in opposition to the leadership, or in opposition as a trustee (I often took stands against the officers in terms of personal spending or in budget matters, or whatever) I found that there was a difference in the way they would argue against my position. They were not at ease. If I were a man, they could speak more openly, or curse; and they were not clear as to how to take my opposition. And they often felt hurt in the same sense that some white people feel hurt if a black person takes an opposite stand. They felt betrayed in the sense that they had encouraged me to come along and to be a leader, and then, if I opposed them, it was a personal, traitorous stand - which they would not feel with a man.

DeL: A man certainly earned his way to leadership, and he was respected when the views he took were set forth. But if a woman were to be in opposition, it was so much more personally taken. People were much more defensive.

I think the female-male relationships were better there in the union. They respected each other. They knew, when a woman went into a store, she would have to pay the same price for a loaf of bread as a male worker. But there was still a great resistance to the idea that women should earn equal pay - say in terms of warehouse work. They had to lift crates, or cases of one hundred pounds. There were limitations on women lifting cases of over twenty-five pounds. One of our real educational efforts had to be to convince the men was that if we earned a rest period of ten minutes (the line shut down at Hiram Walkers because there was a state law) that the ten minutes could apply to the men in the warehouse; and that the gains we could make would be applicable throughout the warehouse. And if we demanded a rest room with a cot, that was something the men might use. Or, if we demanded hot water in the washroom, that was something the men could have. If we wanted a clean lunch room and coffee, that it wasn't just because we were women and weak, but that those were fringe benefits and conditions that were in terms of dignity of all workers. And putting it on that basis we had more success.

But often the men expected you to be more seductive. I have used that word before, but I mean to take a female role of cajoling or persuading you to a position rather than to be straightforward about it. Yet I think there was more encouragement for women and more fighting to eradicate the differential wage until now women and men receive the same wages. The groundwork was certainly laid years ago by women like myself that fought on this and narrowed the 17½¢. But it was really not an easy battle. And certainly the jobs were scarce. Men were very conscious that they were the breadwinner of the family, with children to support, and wives, and women's work was ancillary to men's income. And men were not preparedto have women earn the same wages - in the sense that the wife would bring home the same paycheck, because that really affected the male-female relationships in the household.

Ken: There were women who were sole supports of households at that time, weren't there?

DeL: Yes, but I don't think there were as many as there are today. Single family households were not as common in the white population of the warehouse industry which, I think, was largely Italian or European. When the black people came in, many of them were single family households. The Latino population was not so many single family households. So you had a different population than in our contemporary society. Many of the men who were workers, Italian, or of European extraction, or Irish, in the warehouses, often got their wives jobs to ehlp out. And there was a kind of bringing in of their wives, or sisters, or daughters, or family people, into the warehouse union, I think. And when minority groups came in from the outside in World War II, they brought in a different population. At least, that is my redollection. Another person in the union might have a different view of this.

From my experience, many people were married. There were couples and families on the job. So I think that oftentimes men had more ambivalence about granting equality on the job ecause then it certainly came home to rrost. And you were doing a kind of double-barreled thing. On the one hand, you wanted to get more money on the job, certainly. But it affected the home situation.

Ken: I know a lot of time has lapsed, but just to finish your life history, tell me briefly what has happened since, after you left the union. What did you do?

DeL; I guess in my heart I neyer left the union. If you had an experience as intense and as moving as mine was in the Warehouse Union, Local 6, you never really leave it. In fact, I recently visited the warehouse where I worked. I still have many friends there. I could have put on my smock and sat down and moved my hands in the same mechnical gestures as I had at that belt line for ten years. I know I could have sat down and done the work and been part of it. It never leaves you after you have worked on an assembly line ten years. You know the Charlie Chaplain movie"Modern Times". You work in a factory doing the same hand gestures, it becomes pretty ingrained in you.

But I did get my Bachelor's and my Masters degree while I was still working in the warehouse. And I had two field work

DeL: placements, since I was a social worker-student. One was at Telegraph Hill Neighborhood House, and the other was in the San Francisco Unified School District as a social worker. And that experience was so gratifying to me, and I enjoyed it so much, mainly because I was a more nurturing person than I thought I was.

I enjoyed being with children. Although I had two children at home I was never a full time mother since I worked. And this was a real encounter with kids, and I really liked it.

So I changed my goal to become a social worker with a union and applied for ajob with the school district, and became a school social worker. And I am still an employee of the School District, and a member of the American Federation of Teachers, the Teachers Union.

My husband continued to work in the warehouse until he died in 1970. So I had a very intimate contact with the warehouse union for years after I left it. I have friends among the officials of the union, workers in the union; often attend conferences and participate.

So I transferred, perhaps, energy into other fields because school desegration came on the scene in 1960, and a court order for San Francisco schools in 1970, and I was part of that staff. So it may be that I transferred my interest in civil rights just one step on the continuim of being interested in equal employment and educational opportunities. I transferred it from the adult world to the child's. But it is part of the same struggle to give every single person the opportunity to grow in their way, and not be barred by racial or sexual discrimination.

Ken: That is a marvelous note to end on. But I don't want to end this quite yet. You are working for the School Distribt, but you do a lot of other things. What are some of your outside interests?

DeL: After my husband died in 1970 - our children were, of course, grown and married and had families of their own. I was alone, and partly because of that, and partly because I am a native San Franciscan and have always been interested in the history of the City, I was interested in becoming a member of the Landmarks Board. I had friends who were friends of Mayor Joseph Alioto, and they suggested I would be a good appointee for the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board. And I was appointed, and have served on it to the present time.

I really became active in preservation - historic preservation of buildings in San Francisco. And maybe, because of my sense of social class and different background in the Mission District, my focus was on broadening the Landmarks Board interest from public and private buildings that were obvious, large, and known in the areas of town that were fashionable, to areas like the Mission. And I feel very good that the Tanforan cottages on Dolores Street, the Frank B. Stone on South Van Ness, the Monterey Conservatory, and the Joost Ranch farm house on upper Market Street, and other residences in the City which the Landmarks Board certainly was aware of, but I think pursued recognition of their historic and architectural qualities to broadening the landmarks of the City.

I think I played a part in developing the constituency of the historic preservation of the City so that the fight to preserve the City of Paris building, the department store on Union Square, and the PG&E [Pacific Gas and Electric] sub-station in Yerba Buena, and other buildings, have rallied around a great many people who are now seeing that you can't have demolition of whole buildings with architecture that is important to preserve. Demolition is forever. You knock down a building, you can't put it back up again. So I feel good about that aspect - leaving something behind in terms of beautiful architecture and historic places for my grandchildren and other people's grandchildren, so they can see what the City might have looked like.

Even when I talk about school desegregation and explain why we had to fight to get a black person to get an ordinary job in a warehouse or to drive a bus - it is what part of ordinary people do, and is as important as physical beauty.

Ken: Well. I think that is a good note to end on Thank you.

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